

Clean ponds are happy ponds

One benefit of the ongoing five-year project to study and restore Manchester's urban ponds is that the ponds are not only getting studied, but they're getting cleaned up regularly. Twice a year since 2000, city ponds have been scoured by volunteers for trash and unwanted debris. In 2003, volunteers collected 116 bags of trash from the ponds, but also numerous shopping carts and tires (they don't float, people!), various pieces of furniture, a kayak, a gas grill, an exercise bike, and a vending machine. Who knows what goodies will turn up this time around? Spring clean-ups are scheduled for Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon at the following ponds: April 17, Maxwell Pond; April 24, McQuesten Pond; May 1, Dorrs Pond; May 8, Stevens Pond; May 15, Nutts Pond. Volunteers are welcome; for more information, contact the Urban Ponds Restoration office at 624-6450.

Quality of Life Score: +5, one for each pond.

Comments: *If you'd like to make a difference this spring, here's an easy way to get your feet wet.*